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BOROUGH OF BOSTON
AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer of Health :

D. C. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Port Sanitary Officer :

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN, M.S.I.A.,

Cert. Meat and Food Inspector, R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

E. McTAYLOR, M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector, R.S.I.

Health Visitors :

Miss D. ARCHER, S.R.N., S.R.S.C.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (R.S.I.)

Miss M. L. BIRKIN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (R.S.I.).

Matron, Boston Day Nursery :

Miss M. E. LAWRENCE, S.R.N.

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon (Part-time) :

A. H. BRIGGS, M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.

Ante-Natal Consultant (Part-time) :

A. ECKFORD, M.A., M.D. (Cantab), M.R.C.S.

Consultant Aural Specialist (Part-time) :

M. SPENCER HARRISON, F.R.C.S.

Chief Clerk :

H. V. HOWARD (temporary ; appointment terminated Sept., 1946).

A. A. EDWARDS (resumed duties after Military Service, Sept., 1946).

BOROUGH OF BOSTON
AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

**To :—The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Boston.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report for the year 1946. This being the first Report since the cessation of hostilities I have made it more comprehensive than for some time past.

All the Health Services have been carried out most successfully as will be seen by a perusal of the Report.

The times in which we are living are, to say the least of it, spartan and it is only by means of the various Health Services that a good standard of health can be maintained. The number of births is striking and it is the first time in the history of Boston that they have reached and exceeded the 500 mark. The Infant Mortality Rate is again very low and is due very largely to ante-natal care of expectant mothers. Difficulties that arise at childbirth are foreseen and the death roll in newly born infants very much reduced.

The death rate shows no striking change and continues much as before. The number of deaths from cancer is very large and has been the cause of death in 53 out of the 283 registered deaths.

All the Maternity Beds available have been fully occupied and several more bookings have had to be refused owing to lack of accommodation.

During the year the number of infectious diseases has shown no striking increase, the main diseases notified being scarlet fever and

chicken pox. Only two cases of diphtheria were notified during the year and this is largely due to the intensive campaign of immunisation of children under school age. Still more however could be done, and I hope to emphasise by means of propaganda the importance of having infants immunised at twelve months of age.

The treatment for scabies has been remarkably successful, two hundred cases being treated during the year. The incidence of cases has decreased very considerably of late largely due to the fact that all the members of a household receive prompt treatment.

It will be noted that seventy cases of food poisoning were notified within a short space of time due to an outbreak of ice cream poisoning.

The future that lies ahead is largely problematical but I think that whatever changes may take place in the near future we have the satisfaction of knowing that the Public Health Services, in whatever branch it may be, have been carried out very satisfactorily and that the Borough of Boston can congratulate itself in having a very good Public Health record.

Taken all round, the Services administered by the Health Department have been most successfully carried out, and I have to thank all the various Officials and Staff for their splendid co-operation in producing such satisfactory results.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. C. ROBERTSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
Boston, Lincs.

August, 1947.

Part I

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

GENERAL STATISTICS :

Area (in acres)	3,255
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate for 1946)	22,760
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1946 (according to the Rate Books)	6,856
Rateable Value	£133,954
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£528
Estimated average Number of Persons per Inhabited House	3.3
Estimated average Number of Persons per Acre	7.0
Average Number of Inhabited Houses per Acre	2.1

SOCIAL CONDITIONS ETC. :

The Borough of Boston is a town and seaport of great antiquity and proud historical associations, situated on the River Witham near its outfall to The Wash. The principal Town of the County of Holland, it is a market centre of importance as well as a busy railway centre and junction.

The Borough is surrounded by a rich and extensive agricultural area, by reason of which the principal industries depend largely upon the produce of the land. A large proportion of the population is engaged in this work ; there are also three canning factories in Boston, dealing mainly with fruit and vegetables and employing mainly female labour.

The Port, now poggessing towards its pre-War volume of trade, provides employment for a portion of the male population, as does also the London and North Eastern Railway. Inshore fishing is also a thriving trade.

As the foregoing may indicate, unemployment figures in the district are inclined to fluctuate due to the seasonal nature of employment : the peak is reached in the winter months. It is somewhat difficult to attempt to assess the effect of unemployment upon health,

but I am of the opinion that it has had little or no untoward effect upon the health and physique of either adults or children in the Borough during 1946.

VITAL STATISTICS :

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	22.1
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	30.9
Death Rate (all causes) per 1,000 of the resident population	12.4
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births)	Nil.
Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	27.9
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	30.7
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil.
	Males Females Total
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	27 26 53
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	— — Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	— — Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1 — 1

OBSERVATIONS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION :

The Registrar-General's estimated mid-year population, 22,760 shows a slight increase over the figure for 1945, which was 21,510. On comparing this with the average figure for several pre-War years it would seem that the population has shown little signs of variation. Nevertheless there are signs that the population is on the increase, one of them being the natural increase (i.e., the excess of births over deaths) for 1946, which was 219.

On the latest figure for population, the average number of inhabited houses per acre (2.1), of persons per inhabited house (3.3), and of persons per acre (7.0) have been estimated ; but it must be borne in mind that within the Borough boundary there are considerable areas of agricultural land, which reduces the housing density considerably.

BIRTHS :

A total of 502 live births (256 males, 246 females) were registered during 1946. The live birth rate of 22.1 per 1,000 compares very favourably with the figure for last year, which was 20.64, and that for the whole of England and Wales in 1946, which was 19.1.

The number of illegitimate live births was 46 (24 males, 22 females), which is 9.2% of the total live births. The total illegitimate live births in 1945 was 47.

STILLBIRTHS :

There were 16 stillbirths registered (9 males, 7 females), giving a stillbirth rate of 30.9 per 1,000 total live and still births, as compared with 32.68 in 1945.

Taken as a rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure of 0.7 per 1,000 is arrived at, which is slightly higher than the figure given by the Registrar-General for the whole of England and Wales, namely 0.53.

MATERNAL MORTALITY :

It is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths from puerperal causes assigned to the Borough in 1946.

INFANT MORTALITY :

There were 14 deaths of infants under one year of age (7 males, 7 females). All were legitimate.

The death rate of 27.9 per 1,000 live births is much the same as for 1945 (namely 27.02) and compares satisfactorily with the figure for the whole of England and Wales, which was 43.

DEATHS FROM DIARRHOEA (children under 2 years of age) :

There was one death (male) under this heading in 1946, as compared with nil in 1945. The resulting death rate per 1,000 live births is 2.0, as compared with 4.4 for the whole of England and Wales.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :

The actual number of deaths allocated to the Borough after deduction of those occurring in non-residents and addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the Borough, is 283. This figure gives a crude death rate of 12.4 per 1,000 of the resident population, slightly lower than for 1945, which was 12.87.

The figure for the whole of England and Wales for 1946 is 11.5.

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS :

I am indebted to N. H. Middlebrook, Esq., Meteorologist, for the following particulars regarding weather conditions during 1946, as recorded by him at the Meteorological Station, Freiston Road, Boston :—

“ In the early part of 1946, **January, February and March**, conditions were mainly cold and frosty, interspersed with bright periods. An outstanding example of bright weather was experienced during the period 26th March to 4th April, when we had brilliant sunshine and almost cloudless skies, giving typically warm “ June ” weather. **April** is recorded as having been the most genial month of the year, with an average daily cloud amount of only 5/10, the lowest of the year. However, seven ground frosts occurred during April, the lowest temperature, 26°, being recorded on the 10th of the month. Widespread damage was occasioned to fruit trees and early crops. **May**, in contrast, was cold and cloudy for the most part, with rain 15 days out of the 31. **June** also proved a dismal month, with rain on 18 days and a total rainfall much above the average. With **July** came some improvement, rainfall being subnormal and warm periods recorded. Outstanding in **August, September and October** was the extreme dampness of the air. Rainy conditions were general, and another notable feature was the severe gale and heavy rain on the 20th September, on which day a rainfall of 1.14 inches was recorded. The rainfall of **November** was excessive ; rain fell on 21 days, the total rainfall for the month being 4.38 inches as against a normal average of 2.00 inches. Temperatures were nevertheless generally high, an outstanding day being the 4th, when 64° were recorded. **December** was broadly speaking a cold month, but the last five days were unusually fine, with almost cloudless skies by day ”.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :

There has been no change in the Laboratory facilities during 1946.

The Holland County Council Public Health Laboratory has continued to render a useful service to the Public Health Service and to medical practitioners in the Borough. The following table gives particulars of specimens examined on behalf of the Public Health Department during the year :—

Throat Swabs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
Nasal Swabs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Fæces	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Blood	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

Advantage has again been taken of the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Lincoln. Samples submitted for examination have been mainly in connection with the inspection and supervision of food, and details will be found in the appropriate section of this Report.

The Laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, have continued to carry out chemical and bacteriological examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department. Details are given in the section dealing with the water supply.

AMBULANCE SERVICES :

The Boston and District Motor Ambulance Service, a voluntary organisation, continued to provide an excellent service for accident and general cases during the year. Three motor ambulances are maintained. During 1946 it was found necessary to engage two full-time drivers to be available for day and night duty. In addition to journeys in the locality of Boston, a total of 34 long-distance journeys were made for patients residing in the Boston area. Below is given a statement shewing the work of the service during the past five years :—

Year.	Patients conveyed.	No. of road accidents attended.	Mileage covered.
1942	558	18	11,600
1943	688	21	9,648
1944	815	21	12,054
1945	814	13	15,276
1946	686	16	12,962

For the conveyance of infectious cases, the County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital Board maintain a motor ambulance at that hospital.

The Holland County Council Transport Department also maintains ambulances and sitting cars for use in connection with that Council's Public Health Services.

NURSING IN THE HOME :

The Boston and District Nursing Association continued to undertake home nursing in the Borough during the year, and it is estimated that 2,000 visits were paid to sick cases in 1946. Staff difficulties have been a problem, as the Queen's Sister left in September, leaving one general trained Nurse to cope with all the work. So far, it has not been possible to make good the loss. The Association, which is in a sound financial position, was at the end of the year negotiating for the purchase of a house to accommodate a Queen's Sister.

PUBLIC MORTUARY :

The Public Mortuary is managed by the Borough Engineer's Department. I am satisfied that the Mortuary is properly conducted and the facilities adequate.

HOSPITALS :

The Hospital facilities in the Borough remained unchanged during 1946. The Boston General Hospital, a voluntary hospital of 95 beds, was unable to bring more than 75 of these into use for the greater part of the year, owing to shortage of staff. 1,470 in-patients were dealt with during 1946, and 5,521 out-patients made 17,125 attendances at the Out-patients' Department.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :

These arrangements remained unchanged in 1946. The Tuberculosis Dispensary, Venereal Diseases Clinic and Orthopædic Clinic are held at the Holland County Emergency Hospital. The Clinics operated in connection with the School Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Services for Ophthalmic, Dental and minor defects, are held at the Health Centre, London Road.

The Cleansing Station also continues to function at the Health Centre, and details as to the number of cases of scabies dealt with will be found in Section F of this Report.

SUPPLY OF INSULIN TO DIABETICS :

In accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and Circular 2734 (1943) of the Ministry of Health, the Corporation has since 1943 provided supplies of Insulin free of charge to poor persons in the Borough suffering from Diabetes. Cases are dealt with on the recommendation of the private doctor, who refers them to the Public Health Department. Details as to the number of cases provided with regular supplies of Insulin since the inception of the Scheme are as follows :—

1943	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 cases.
1944	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 cases.
1945	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 cases.
1946	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 cases.

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES :

These services are provided by the Holland County Council.

BOROUGH MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Corporation of Boston is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the Borough, and the Holland County Council the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act.

A very satisfactory degree of co-operation exists between the Public Health Departments of both Authorities, the result being that the Borough enjoys Maternity and Child Welfare Services which are comprehensive and smooth-running.

Details of these services are given under the following sub-headings. These services have been introduced over a number of years, and have proved their enormous value in raising the standard of health of both mothers and children. Generally speaking, the facilities offered have been greatly appreciated. Dental treatment may be an exception, for expectant mothers appear to be reticent in the matter ; apparently they take fright and frequently make the excuse that they wish to postpone their treatment until after the confinement, whereas they really have no intention of having treatment at all. Persuasive tactics succeed in some cases, but the number of refusals is nevertheless unsatisfactory.

1. ANTE-NATAL CARE :

(a) **The Borough Ante-Natal Clinic.**

The present Scheme, inaugurated in 1944, has proved more effective than that previously in existence whereby expectant mothers were examined by their private doctors, the fees being paid by the Corporation.

The Ante-Natal Clinic is held at the Health Centre weekly on Mondays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Borough Ante-Natal Consultant is in attendance to carry out examinations, and another great advantage of the Scheme is that the Midwives are also in attendance (see " Midwifery Services," below) to meet their future cases and to learn at first-hand the findings of the Consultant.

No charge is made for the service. Cases in which any defects or abnormalities are found are given appropriate advice and referred either through the Boston Schemes or to their own private doctors for treatment. Where necessary, X-Ray examination is also arranged, and details as to the number of cases so dealt with in 1946 are set forth in the appropriate section of this Report. The following statistics have been tabulated of the work of the Clinic since its inauguration :—

Year.	Sessions held.	Total No. of women who attended.	Examinations carried out.
1944	48	246	304
1945	49	238	373
1946	48	259	337

(b) **Other Arrangements.**

Expectant mothers who have booked maternity beds at the Boston General Hospital or at the Holland County Council Wyberton West Hospital are called to the Ante-Natal Clinics organised by the respective Hospitals.

2. **HEALTH VISITING :**

The Health Visiting work of the Borough is ably carried out by the two Health Visitors. Prior to 1945 the staff comprised three Health Visitor/School Nurses who devoted approximately half of their time to Maternity and Child Welfare visiting, but with the transfer of the School Health Services to the Holland County Council one member of the staff was also transferred.

Details of Visits paid during the Year 1946.

Nature of Visits.	First Visits.	Total Visits.
To expectant mothers	88	131
To children under 1 year of age	479	2,410
To children between 1 and 5 years of age	—	4,866

The steady increase in this important work will be apparent from the following records of the total home visits which have been paid during the past five years :—

1942	.....	6,954
1943	.....	6,767
1944	.....	6,909
1945	.....	7,182
1946	.....	7,407

3. **MIDWIFERY SERVICES :**

As stated earlier in this Report, the Holland County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts. Four midwives are employed by that Authority for work in the Borough:

The midwives attend at the Borough Ante-Natal Clinic weekly, and all bookings of midwives are effected there. This arrangement is a most useful one, enabling mothers to see the Midwife and the Ante-Natal Consultant in the course of the same visit.

The midwives co-operate very satisfactorily with this Department in the matter of notifying births.

4. **MATERNITY HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION :**

- (a) **The Boston General Hospital.**—A voluntary hospital—incorporates a Maternity Unit with 12 maternity beds. The following are the statistics of the Unit for 1946 :

Number of beds in the Unit reserved for expectant mothers in need of hospital treatment	Nil.
(These are treated in the General Wards as necessary.)	
Number of maternity cases admitted during the year	250
Average duration of stay of cases in the lying-in wards	12 days
Number of cases delivered by :—	
(a) Midwives	171
(b) Doctors	79
Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	18
Number of cases admitted after delivery	Nil.
Number of cases notified as puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia	Nil.
Number of cases of pemphigus neonatorum	Nil.
Number of infants who have at any time received a supplementary or complementary feed whilst in the Unit (excluding those given in the first three or four days whilst breast feeding is being established)	35
Number of infants wholly breast-fed on leaving the Unit	199
Number of cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum	5
Result of treatment in each case	Satisfactory
Number of maternal deaths	Nil.
Number of stillbirths	11
Number of infant deaths within 10 days of birth	6
The infant deaths were due to :—	
Atelectasis	1
Prematurity (twins, 2 sets)	4
Prematurity	1

(b) **The Holland County Council Wyberton West Hospital.**

This Hospital, situated in the Borough, has a Maternity Unit which is, however, mainly for County cases, except as mentioned under the next heading.

(c) The Borough Maternity Beds Scheme.

This Scheme has now been in operation since 1937. Reservations are made by the Corporation for the admission of eight cases per month to the Boston General Hospital Maternity Unit, at a cost of ten guineas per case. Patients are required to pay a contribution towards the cost, based upon the financial circumstances of the family.

As in previous years, there has during 1946 been a heavy demand for beds, which have been fully booked up for months ahead. When necessary, it has been found possible to take emergency cases in addition, but a need undoubtedly exists for an increase in the accommodation for such cases.

By arrangement with the Holland County Council, bookings have been allocated to the Borough to enable a small number of cases to be admitted to the Maternity Unit at the Wyberton West Hospital. The cost to the Corporation amounts to five guineas weekly for each case, and patients are again required to contribute in accordance with income. The allocation of beds to the Borough has been much restricted during 1946 by the problem of shortage of staff.

Admissions to Maternity Units under the Borough Scheme.

Year.	Boston General Hospital.	Wyberton West Hospital.
1942	92	—
1943	82	—
1944	99	—
1945	92	21
1946	105	21

5. HOME AND DOMESTIC HELPS :

I consider that there is a need in the Borough for a service of home helps in connection with domiciliary midwifery and of domestic helps to help in the homes of sick and infirm persons. The possibilities of launching such a scheme were fully explored on various occasions during 1946, but the difficulty of recruiting suitable women prevented progress.

At the end of the year a definite Scheme had been prepared and received the approval of the Council. It will be brought into operation early in 1947. It is hoped to overcome the lack of volunteers by enlisting the assistance of the local Branch of the Women's Voluntary Services, the Women's Institutes, etc., and so build up a small panel of suitable workers.

6. CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS :

Thirty-four premature babies were notified to me during 1946 as being born to mothers normally resident in the Borough. Of these, 26 were born at home and were nursed entirely at home, 23 surviving at the end of a month. 8 were born in hospital, of which 6 survived at the end of one month. There were, therefore, 5 deaths of premature infants.

Information as to prematurity is received by the Public Health Department when births are notified. On the printed cards issued to midwives, etc., for this purpose, space is provided for details of weight at birth when this is $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less.

Each case is visited and carefully investigated by the Health Visitors, who give appropriate advice and also submit to me a special report. During the period when hot water bottles have been in short supply, these have been issued on loan from the Public Health Department as required.

Institutional treatment is available when necessary at the Boston General Hospital.

7. CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS :

In the course of their duties, the Health Visitors pay special attention to the care of illegitimate children.

Close liason is maintained with local moral welfare organisations and I am satisfied that the problem receives adequate attention.

8. THE BOSTON INFANT WELFARE CENTRE :

The work of the Infant Welfare Centre has continued to grow steadily during 1946. Sessions have been held at the Health Centre on three afternoons weekly, namely Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 2 to 4 p.m., when I attend together with the Health Visitors. We are fortunate in being assisted in our work by the good offices of a team of voluntary lady workers.

Attendances, which are no doubt adversely affected by the fact that the Centre is badly situated for the majority of mothers, nevertheless increased considerably, and it is satisfactory to note that approximately 80% of the children born in the year attended the Welfare Centre. Total attendances over the past five years are as follows :—

1942	.....	7,561
1943	.....	8,474
1944	.....	8,166
1945	.....	7,941
1946	.....	8,766

The importance of continued supervision throughout childhood cannot be too strongly stressed. The work of the Centre is, of course, intended to be mainly preventive, to reduce medical treatment to the minimum. However, treatment cannot be avoided in some instances, and cases requiring treatment for dental or ophthalmic defects, orthopaedic conditions, diseases of the ear, nose and throat, etc., are referred as necessary to the Treatment Schemes provided by the Corporation, or to their private doctors.

The co-operation of the N.S.P.C.C. has proved valuable in several instances in dealing with the class of parents—fortunately very much in the minority—who hinder the work and endanger the health of their children by failing to bring them to clinics or by delaying their treatment.

Infant Feeding, Supply of Foods, etc.

Careful advice is given at the Centre on problems of infant diet. Natural feeding is strongly advocated, and I am pleased to report that some increase has been noted in the proportion of infants being breast-fed.

Stocks of most brands of infant foods are held at the Welfare Centre for sale to mothers at cost price. The Centre is also used for the distribution of Ministry of Food vitamin concentrates, cod liver oil and fruit juices.

Statistics of the Infant Welfare Centre for 1946.

Number of attendances :

(a) By infants under 1 year of age	6,075
(b) By children aged 1 to 5 years	2,691

Number of children who first attended during 1946 :

(a) Infants under 1 year of age	473
(b) Children aged 1 to 5 years	120
Number of Sessions held	152
Average attendance per session	58

Total number of children attending during 1946, who at the end of the year were :—

(a) Infants under 1 year of age	403
(b) Children aged 1 to 5 years	760

9. BOROUGH TREATMENT SCHEMES FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5, EXPECTANT MOTHERS, ETC :

(a) X-Ray Examination of Expectant Mothers.

Cases in which such examination is desirable are referred by the Ante-Natal Consultant from the Clinic. By arrangement with the Holland County Council, the examination can be carried out at the County Emergency Hospital by appointment. No charge is made by the Corporation to the patient.

Seven cases were examined under this Scheme in 1946.

(b) **Dental Treatment—Expectant Mothers.**

Cases requiring dental treatment are referred to me by the Ante-Natal Consultant, Health Visitors or Midwives.

Minor treatment (necessitating only one or two extractions or fillings) is carried out by the County Dentist by arrangement with the Holland County Council. No charge is made to the patient.

Treatment necessitating multiple extractions and provision of dentures is carried out by arrangement with the private dentist of the patient's choice. Patients are required to pay contributions according to their means.

Cases undergoing minor treatment by the County Dentist during 1946	4
Cases treated by private dentists and fitted with dentures under the Scheme	5
Cases referred, but who did not accept the facilities offered	18

(c) **Dental Treatment—Children under 5.**

Children suffering from dental defects are referred from the Infant Welfare Centre or Day Nursery, or by the Health Visitors. By arrangement with the Holland County Council, treatment is carried out by the County Dentist, and no charge is made by the Corporation to the parents. Where necessary, teeth are extracted under gas anæsthetic.

Children treated by County Dentist in 1946	11
Children referred, but who failed to accept the facilities offered	2

(d) **Treatment for Ear, Nose and Throat Defects—Children under 5.**

Children suffering from enlarged tonsils and adenoids are referred by me from the Infant Welfare Centre. Operative treatment is carried out at the Boston General Hospital. Parents are required to pay a contribution according to their means, except in cases covered by the Hospital Contributory Scheme, in which a modified charge is made by the Hospital and no parental contribution is sought.

Children with other defects or complications of this nature are referred to the Consultant Aural Specialist for examination and report. Thereafter, arrangements are made for any treatment indicated.

Children who received operative treatment for Tonsils and/or Adenoids in 1946	28
Children referred to the Aural Specialist in consultation	3

(e) **Ophthalmic Treatment—Children under 5.**

Children suffering from defects of vision are referred by me from the Infant Welfare Centre to the weekly County Ophthalmic Clinic, where they are dealt with by arrangement with the Holland County Council.

Difficult cases, such as those requiring operative treatment for squint, etc., are referred to the Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, who attends weekly at the Boston General Hospital.

No charge is made to parents for this service, but cost price is charged for any spectacles provided.

Number of children referred to the County Ophthalmic Clinic during 1946	29
Attendances made by the above	89
Number of children referred to the Consultant Surgeon	14
Number of children provided with spectacles under the Scheme in 1946	15

(f) **Orthopædic Treatment—Children under 5.**

By arrangement with the Holland County Council, children referred by me from the Infant Welfare Centre as suffering from orthopædic defects are dealt with under that Authority's comprehensive Scheme.

Cases are called to attend at the Orthopædic Surgeon's monthly Clinic. Thereafter, treatment is provided as follows :—

For in-patients : At the Orthopædic Block, Holland County Emergency Hospital. The Corporation has, by arrangement, one bed permanently reserved for Borough cases.

For out-patients : At the special Department of the County Emergency Hospital, the Bargate Physiotherapy Centre, or in the homes of patients.

No charge is made to parents for any treatment under the Scheme.

Details of Borough Orthopædic Cases, 1946.

Register of Cases :

Orthopædic cases on register at commencement of year	15
Cases added during 1946	16
Cases removed (attained school age, left area, etc.)	4
Cases remaining on Register at end of 1946	27

In-patient Treatment :		
Number of children receiving in-patient treatment,		
1946		6
Total number of days patients were in hospital		295
Children. Attendances.		
Orthopædic Surgeon's Clinic :		
Children in attendance in 1946	29	43
Out-patient Treatment :		
At Out-patient Dept., County		
Emergency Hospital	11	52
At Physiotherapy Centre :		
(a) For massage and exer-		
cise	7	151
(b) For Ultra-Violet Ray		
Treatment	6	118
Home visits by the Ortho-		
pædic Nurse	6	70

(g) **Ultra-Violet Light Treatment—Children under 5.**

Children suffering from general debility and similar conditions are referred by me from the Infant Welfare Centre to the Ultra-Violet Light Clinic of a Masseuse in private practice in Boston. This Scheme has been in operation for several years, and has proved of great benefit to the cases treated. No charge is made to parents for the service.

Eight such cases made a total of 106 attendances during 1946.

10. THE BOSTON DAY NURSERY :

The Day Nursery, previously a voluntary organisation, was taken over by the Corporation in 1933. At that time it was housed in premises in Bank Street, but in 1940 a mutual agreement was entered into whereby the Holland County Council placed Allan House, Carlton Road, at the disposal of the Corporation in return for the use of the Bank Street premises.

The Staff is residential, and comprises the Matron, Deputy Matron, Staff Nurse and six Nursery Assistants. All have been selected from a point of view of suitability to have the care of young children, and all candidates for appointment to the staff are medically examined by me.

Children are taken daily, from 7.15 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (excepting Saturdays and Sundays). They are provided with a light lunch, dinner and tea, and close attention is paid to diet. An inclusive charge of 1/6 per day is made for each child.

Undoubtedly the Day Nursery is providing an excellent service to the community. Every care is given to babies and toddlers, and I am regularly in attendance to give matters my close supervision. But for the Day Nursery, parents would have to resort to the alternative of leaving their infants in the care of neighbours, with unsatisfactory consequences in many cases.

At the end of the year, attention was being given to the matter of training Nursery Students at the Nursery.

The following statistics for 1946 indicate a considerable increase in attendances when compared with the previous year :—

Number of approved places at the Day Nursery :

(a) For children aged 0—2 years	25
(b) For children aged 2—5 years	25

Number of children on the Register at end of 1946 :

(a) Children aged 0—2 years	44
(b) Children aged 2—5 years	20

Total attendances registered in 1946	7,012
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11. CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The Health Visitors undertake the duties of Child Life Protection Visitors under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Three children under the age of nine years were on the Register and under their supervision and protection at the end of the year 1946, being received by an equal number of foster-mothers for reward.

Frequent routine visits are made to these cases, and special reports submitted to me on every occasion. It was not found necessary during 1946 to take any action under the Act.

12. ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (REGULATION) ACT, 1939 :

No notice was received by the Welfare Authority during the year 1946, and no action taken by the Authority under Section 7 of the above Act.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH. WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. D. H. Ball, Water Engineer, for the following report on the Borough Water Supply :—

1. STATISTICS, ETC. :

- (a) **Rainfall.** Revesby Waterworks for 1946—27.71 inches, an increase of 5.06 inches on 1945.
- (b) **Volume of Water Supplied** from Revesby and Fordington during 1946—409,578,000 gallons, an increase of 41,155,000 gallons on 1945. Average gallons per day—1,112,000, an increase of 103,000 gallons per day on 1945.
- (c) **Domestic and Trade Consumption** in the Borough are estimated at 32 and 11 galls. per head per day respectively. Waste inspection and detection measures have been intensified during the year with beneficial results.

From a Public Health standpoint it is gratifying to note that a number of new houses have been erected during the year and a considerable amount of internal plumbing work undertaken in existing houses, all new fittings installed being to approved standard.

2. (a) QUALITY OF SUPPLY.

Based on the analysis made by the Royal Institute of Public Health on samples drawn from the mains in various parts of the Borough at frequent intervals, the water has throughout the year been of satisfactory purity, although on one or two occasions the analyses revealed a slight excess of iron oxide. A considerable amount of maintenance work and systematic flushing of mains has been undertaken with the object of reducing complaints from consumers of discolouration to a minimum.

Nine Chemical and Bacteriological Analyses, at monthly intervals, were made of the raw water in the Revesby Reservoir, and after chlorination and filtration further bacteriological analyses were made, which revealed that the water passing to supply was on all occasions of satisfactory quality and had been adequately chlorinated.

Nine Chemical and Bacteriological Analyses were also made during 1946 on the raw water from the boreholes at Fordington, and same were satisfactory, but chlorination is undertaken for precautionary measures in accordance with the Ministry of Health instructions to maintain the purity of the water passing to supply.

- (b) The pH values of the Revesby and Fordington waters are 7.0—8.0 and therefore not liable to have plumbo solvent action.
- (c) There was no form of contamination in the public water supply during 1946.

- (d) The proportion of the houses in the Borough supplied by standpipes and outside taps is very small but many are inadequately "serviced" from the main and property owners are constantly encouraged to remedy defects. Acute shortage of essential materials makes enforcement difficult at present.

Much progress has been made on the large Rural Water Scheme referred to in last year's report as being in course of preparation, and at the time of writing this report the Water Committee have resolved that the comprehensive scheme (estimated to cost £40,000) be submitted to the Ministry of Health.

3. QUANTITY OF WATER AVAILABLE :

The quantity available for domestic purposes has (with a few exceptions during peak demand periods in proximity of the Canning Factory on the south side of the town) been adequate, although it is admitted that pressures are below recognised standards during the day time. Improvement is confidently expected in the near future and many new mains are scheduled for laying in 1947, whilst developments and improvements are to be undertaken at Revesby and Fordington sources of supply.

4. PARTICULARS AS TO LENGTHS OF NEW MAINS LAID DURING THE YEAR.

Borough.		Dia. Size.	Length. Yards.
1.	Cotton Road Housing Estate	4"	150
2.	Marsh Avenue Housing Estate	3"	450
3.	Church Road Housing Estate	4"	250
4.	King's Avenue—Kingsway	4"	250
5.	Hessle Drive	3"	50
6.	Princess Street (renewal)	3"	110
Spilsby R.D.C.			
	Northlands—Littlemoors Lane, Sibsy	3"	1250

5. TOTAL LENGTH OF MAINS IN USE AT THE END OF THE YEAR 1946 :

Distribution Mains.											
Dia.	.....	1½in.	2in.	2½in.	3in.	4in.	5in.	6in.	7in.	8in.	9in.
Mileage	.....	3.32	6.34	3.33	24.80	8.39	1.04	4.73	0.54	0.23	0.22
		12in.	14in.	and 15in. pumping and Trunk Mains							35.16

(Signed) D. H. BALL,
M.I.Mun.E., A.I.W.E.,
Water Engineer.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :

During the year, the installation of the Storm Water Pump in George Street was commenced. No other major works were carried out on the sewerage system.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE SCHEMES :

House refuse is collected at fortnightly intervals. The Salvage Collections continue to be very satisfactory and waste paper collections increased from 273 tons in 1945/46 to 295 tons in 1946/7.

SWIMMING BATHS :

The Corporation are the owners of an open-air swimming bath and private hot-water baths situated on the east bank of the Haven.

The need for increased facilities has long been realized but in view of the urgent need for houses it is obvious that any idea of implementing pre-war plans for new swimming baths must be postponed for several years. It was therefore decided to instal additional chlorination plant at the existing baths and this has resulted in some improvement in the bacteriological quality of the water.

MEASURES AGAINST INFESTATION :

- (a) **Rodent Control.** At the commencement of the year the second full treatment of the sewers was in progress and this was completed with comparatively few stoppages due to bad weather, in March. The results showed a satisfactory decrease in the rat population and this was confirmed by the first maintenance treatment which was carried out between July 9th and September 23rd. The modern sewerage system is practically free from rats but the old brick sewers, many of which are disused, are a constant source of trouble.

The Special Scheme for dwelling houses (NS12) was put into operation and as a result of the survey 421 cases of minor infestation were found and dealt with.

In the favour of the Scheme it can be said that it has resulted in the elimination of a larger number of rats than would otherwise have occurred. Against it, it must be said that a large section of the public now believe that the responsibility of dealing with rat infestation has passed from the occupier to the Local Authority. While many will argue that the Local Authority are better able to deal efficiently with the rat problem, it cannot be too heavily emphasized that the legal responsibility for ridding premises of rats still lies with the occupier.

- (b) **Verminous Houses.** The number of houses found to be verminous was as follows :—

Bed bugs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Fleas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Crickets	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8

In the case of bed bugs the work of disinfection was carried out by the Health Department, using liquid and gaseous fumigants containing D.D.T. These fumigants were found to be more effective than the older type of fumigant without D.D.T., but a heavy infestation usually required more than one visit to secure 100% success.

Other types of infestation were usually dealt with by supplying powder insecticides.

An unusual feature was the number of houses that became heavily infested with ants, an insect which proved particularly difficult to deal with as neither powder nor liquid insecticides appeared to be very effective.

SANITARY INSPECTION IN THE BOROUGH :

The report of the Sanitary Inspector will be found at the end of this report.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES :

During the year the Borough Police Force regularly visited and supervised the Common Lodging Houses and conditions were found to be satisfactory. One Lodging House had to be treated for infestation by bed bugs.

FACTORIES :

The following number of Factories and similar premises have been inspected during the year :—

Factories with Mechanical Power	.....	.....	41
Factories without Mechanical Power	.....	.....	15
Other premises (including works of building and engineering construction)	.....	.....	3

No Statutory Notices had to be served as any necessary work was carried out on the receipt of a letter.

OUTWORKERS PREMISES :

The number of these in the Borough is very small and they have been regularly inspected and generally found to be in a satisfactory condition.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Number of houses erected in the Borough during the year :—

(a) By private enterprise	18
(b) By the Council	Nil
(102 temporary houses erected by the Ministry of Works.)	

INSPECTIONS :

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	613
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1303
(2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	148
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	327
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	95

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	60
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	57
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	37
(b) By local authority in default of owners	2

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	28
--	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	18
(b) By local authority in default of owners	2

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

Nil.

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

Nil.

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

Owing to the impossibility during the war years of keeping the records up to date, no accurate figures can be given.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

Under the Control of Livestock Scheme operated by the Ministry of Food, one slaughterhouse in the town is used to supply the needs of the Boston Borough and the Boston Rural District. The slaughterhouse is unsatisfactory and owing to its situation cannot be made satisfactory but the Manager does his best with the facilities at his disposal.

Transportation and handling of the meat is another aspect of the problem which gives rise to much dissatisfaction. Although it has not been possible during the year to effect any improvement in the vehicles used the meat is now delivered direct from the slaughterhouse to the butchers' shops instead of first being taken to the Meat Depôt for allocation. This reduces the number of times that the meat is handled which is a definite improvement.

The following tables give details of the number of carcasses killed and of the quantity of meat condemned. The figures for " whole carcasses and offal condemned " are higher than one would wish to see but they are artificially inflated by a certain number of " casualties " that were hopefully sent to the slaughterhouse when their condition was such that they should have gone straight to the knackers' yard.

Carcasses examined during the year :—

Beef	2894
Mutton	5456
Pork	1852

Meat Destroyed:

	Beef.	Mutton.	Pork.	Total.
Carcases whole with offal	64	6	44	114
Forequarters	14	—	4	18
Hindquarters	11	—	—	11
Plucks	—	16	91	107
Heads and Tongues	212	16	37	288
Livers	154	17	39	210
Lungs	59	—	—	59
Intestines	68	61	338	467
Miscellaneous	143	9	3	155
Meat	86st. 7lb.	—	14st. 4lb.	100st. 11lb.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle including Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	2369	460	525	5456	1852
Number inspected	2369	460	525	5456	1852
All diseases except tuberculosis					
Whole carcases con- demned	35	12	2	6	33
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	202	4	10	126	139
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	10.0	3.5	2.3	2.4	9.2
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases con- demned	29	13	1	—	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	215	10	—	—	42
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis	10.3	5.0	.19	—	2.9

MILK SUPPLY.

In these days of restricted supplies to the ordinary consumer it is regrettable to have to record complaints of milk being sour within a few hours of delivery. A certain proportion of the bulk supplies to the town has to travel over 40 miles by road in churns and is then bottled and kept overnight for delivery the next day. As a result, milk that may be 48 hours old is delivered to the consumer without any form of heat treatment and in those circumstances it is surprising that periods of hot weather have not produced more complaints.

The dairies and cowsheds in the area have been regularly inspected and I am pleased to record that the majority of them have always been found in a satisfactory condition.

It has been possible this year to take samples at more frequent intervals and this has, I think, had a beneficial effect. There is only one pasteurising establishment in the Borough and their plant is old and overloaded, but in spite of that, a bad sample was a rarity. It was hoped that by May, 1947 they would have moved to new premises with modern plant of a greatly increased capacity but the latest report on the supply of equipment indicates that the opening of this new dairy will probably be delayed for twelve months.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING :

On the 1st October, 1939, when the Food and Drugs Act 1938 came into operation, the duties of sampling passed to the Holland County Council.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Table 1 shows the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year, the numbers admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and the total number of deaths.

Scarlet Fever.—The number of cases notified has fallen from 83 in 1945 to 72 in 1946, and there were no deaths resulting from this disease.

Diphtheria.—The number of cases notified has fallen from 8 in 1945 to 2 in 1946, and there were no deaths resulting from this disease.

Chicken pox.—The number of cases notified has risen from 185 in 1945 to 260 in 1946, the majority of which occurred during the last quarter of the year.

Food poisoning.—An outbreak of food poisoning involving at least 67 persons occurred during the last week of July. The causative agent was bacillus *Salmonella Typhi-murium* and the vehicle was ice cream prepared by the " cold-mix " process. A good standard of cleanliness was maintained in the ice cream manufacturing process but as subsequent investigation proved that all members of the manufacturer's household were excreting the specific organism it is not altogether surprising that the ice cream was infected. Fortunately the outbreak produced no fatal results although several persons were seriously ill. The one good result of the outbreak was that it converted at least one more ice cream manufacturer to the " hot mix " process.

Scabies.—199 cases of scabies were notified during the year. 202 persons were treated at the Cleansing Centre, 80 of these being children of school age. Since 1942 in-patient treatment for scabies has been made available by the Holland County Council, the cost being met as a general County charge.

Table 1.

All the figures included refer to civilians only, and are corrected figures :—

Notifiable Disease during the Year 1946.

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Confirmed Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria	2	2	2	Nil
Scarlet Fever	72	72	23	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	29	29	12	13
Erysipelas	1	1	Nil	Nil
Measles	17	17	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	39	39	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4	3	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10	10	5	Nil
Scabies	199	199	Nil	Nil
Food Poisoning	70	70	1	1
Chicken Pox	260	260	Nil	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS :

Cases noted within the Borough come under the control of the Holland County Council and all examinations are carried out under their authority.

It has not been necessary to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Table 2.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Showing New Cases and Deaths.

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1—5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
15—25	3	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
25—35	4	2	—	—	2	—	2	—
35—45	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10	7	—	2	5	—	5	1

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :

During the year 387 children completed a course of immunisation against Diphtheria. Of 2,040 children under 5, 1,176 or 58% have been immunised, while of 3,250 between the ages of 5—15, 3,228 or 99% have also received the benefit of this service.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

INSPECTIONS :

Dwellings.

Inspected under the Housing Act, 1936	148
Inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936	700
	<hr/> 848

Reinspections.

Under the Housing Act, 1936	647
Under the Public Health Act	55
	<hr/> 702

Living Vans.	31
Butchers' Shops	95
Other Shops	58
Bakehouses	39
Factories and Workshops	56
Cowsheds and Milkshops	15
Infectious Diseases	72
Market Stalls	237
Smoke Observation	14
Overcrowding	12
Slaughterhouse and Meat Depôt	808
Dock	38
Rat Infestation	75
Food Poisoning	75
Milk Samples	84
Ice Cream Samples	20
Water Samples	19
Miscellaneous	112

Total	<hr/> 3410
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OFFICE WORK :

Informal Notices.	Served.	Complied with.
Housing Act, 1936	128	68
Public Health Act, 1936	67	29
Dustbin	19	8

Statutory Notices.	Served.	Complied with.
Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9	57	39
Public Health Act, 1936	9	8
Dustbin	17	10
Conversions	2	2

PREMISES DISINFECTED :

Scarlet Fever	28
Diphtheria	2
Tuberculosis	6
Cancer	4

NUISANCES REPORTED AND COMPLAINTS RECEIVED :

Total number of complaints received 191

The following are details of complaints received and remedied :—

Defective dustbins	8
General Housing Complaints	50
Defective W.C's.	10
Dirty houses	7
Bugs	3
Fleas, beetles, etc.	15
Crickets	6
Rats and Mice	23
Choked drains	32
Choked sewers	9
Ash closet	1
Smoke nuisance	2
Nuisance from pigs	2
Nuisance from chickens	2
Defective yard paving	1
Defective water tap	3
Miscellaneous	17

NUISANCES FROM PREMISES OTHER THAN DWELLINGS :

Slaughterhouses	2
Butchers' Workshops	1
Workshops	4
Premises used for Offensive Trades	2

OTHER ITEMS.

WATER :

Samples of water were taken at regular intervals throughout the year, and in each case the Analyst reported that the water was satisfactory.

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN,
Sanitary Inspector.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

Part II.
—Boston Port Health Authority

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

Year ended 31st December, 1946.

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Boston, being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted by the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health Administration of the Port of Boston during the year ended 31st December, 1946. The Report has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Memorandum 302/S.A. of the Ministry of Health.

During 1946, the trade of the Port continued to progress towards its pre-War volume. The Health Administration functioned smoothly, and I am again in the happy position of having little untoward to report. This satisfactory state of affairs is due largely to the measure of co-operation which exists between all concerned in the administration of the Port. In this connection I wish to express my thanks to the Port Manager and Officers of H.M. Customs ; also to the Port Sanitary Officer and other members of the Public Health Department Staff, for the assistance they have afforded me throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. C. ROBERTSON,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
Boston.

May, 1947.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

— of the —

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Year ended 31st December, 1946.

Table A.

I. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR :

		Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number reported to be Defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of vessels reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
				By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector				
Foreign	Steamers ..	63	29,960	11	18	3	3	Nil	Nil
	*Motor	77	14,060	14	21	4	4	Nil	Nil
	Sailing	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign ..		140	44,020	25	39	7	7	Nil	Nil
Coastwise	Steamers ..	56	12,339	6	8	2	2	Nil	Nil
	*Motor	170	32,067	10	17	5	5	Nil	1
	Sailing	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing	1	24	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	Nil
Total Coastwise		227	44,430	16	25	7	7	Nil	1
Total Foreign and Coastwise		367	88 450	41	64	14	14	Nil	1

*Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

II. CHARACTER AND TRADE OF PORT :

Table B.

(a) Passenger Traffic during the Year.

No. of Passengers.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Trans-migrants.
Inwards	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Outwards	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) Cargo Traffic.

The Principal Imports are :

Grain	Deals	Pine Logs	Granite
Flour	Battens & Boards	Manure	Shingle
Bran and Sharps	Sleepers	Binder Twine	Bog Ore
Potatoes	Telegraph Poles	Steel Billets	General Contin- ental goods

The Principal Exports are :

Grain	Vegetables	Sugar	Basic Slag
Potatoes	Seeds	Pig Iron	Coal
General Contin- ental goods			

(c) Foreign Ports from which Vessels arrive.

Belgium.	Finland.	France.	Germany.	Holland.	Norway.	Sweden.
Antwerp	Borga	Caen	Emden.	Flushing	Sandvik	Haparanda
Ghent	Kemi	Dieppe	Hamburg	Maasluis	Porsgrund	
	Abo	Rouen	Leer	Rotterdam	Fredericks- havn	
		St. Malo	Lubeck	Ternhausen		
		Calais	Wilhelms- haven	Willenstad		
				Zaandam		
				Zieriksee		

Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The Port of Boston is not an approved port, under the Aliens Order, 1920, for the landing of aliens.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

1. Source of Supply.

Water is supplied, both to the Port and to shipping, from the mains of the Boston Corporation Water Supply.

2. Hydrants and Hosepipes—Precautions taken against contamination.

All such fittings are properly housed in protective boxes to prevent contamination. All receive constant flushing by regular use, and are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

3. Water Boats.

There are no water boats in the Port.

IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 AND 1945.

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.

H.M. Customs and all shipping agents are issued by the Public Health Department with supplies of prescribed forms.

Upon completion, Declarations of Health are returned to the Medical Officer of Health by H.M. Customs Officers.

2. Boarding of Vessels on Arrival.

All infected or suspected vessels are boarded by the Medical Officer of Health, either at the Pilot Sloop or at the Landing Stage immediately outside the Dock Gates. This of course depends upon the type of disease or other conditions to be dealt with.

3. Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention—(wireless messages, land signal stations, information from pilots, Customs Officers, etc.).

Each week, a detailed list of infected ports is extracted from the Ministry of Health Weekly Record. This list is forwarded to the Port Manager for the information of Pilots, H.M. Customs Officers, etc. Arrangements are in force for immediate notification to be given to the Medical Officer of Health of any vessels requiring special attention.

The Medical Officer of Health is also connected by telephone with the Pilot Boarding Station, which is situated in the Wash, five miles from Port.

The telegraphic address : " Port-health, Boston " remains registered with the General Post Office.

4. Mooring Stations designated under Article 10.

(a) Within the Docks : The vacant berth in Boston Dock.

(b) Outside the Docks : The Quarantine Station—" Clay Hole."

5. Particulars of any Standing Exemptions from the Provisions of Article 14.

Nil.

6. Experience of Working Article 16.

It has not been necessary during the year 1946 to take any action to restrict boarding or leaving ships.

7. What, if any, arrangements have been made for :

(a) Premises and Waiting Rooms for Medical Examination.

There are no arrangements in existence, or in my opinion necessary. Having regard to the type of shipping using the

Dock, I am satisfied that medical examinations can most conveniently be carried out on board ships.

- (b) Cleansing and Disinfection of Ships, Persons and Clothing and other articles.

Arrangements in existence provide for disinfection of infected quarters under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer. Bedding, etc., can be disinfected by steam in the steam disinfector at the County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital.

- (c) Premises for the Temporary Accommodation of Persons for whom such Accommodation is required for the Purposes of the Regulations.

Such accommodation is available at the County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital.

- (d) Hospital Accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox and other Infectious Diseases.

Isolation Hospital accommodation is provided adjacent to the main County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital, near the Borough of Boston Boundary and within convenient reach of the Port.

- (e) Ambulance Transport.

A motor ambulance is provided by the Joint Isolation Hospital.

- (f) Supervision of Contacts.

All contacts are interrogated personally, and are fully informed as to their obligations. At the same time a note is taken of the address to which each is proceeding, and if this is situated outside the area of the Authority, prompt notification of the fact is given to the Local Authority concerned. A supply of pre-paid printed post-cards is available, and one is issued in every case to enable the Port Medical Officer to be notified of any change of address.

8. Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rats for Plague.

Any such examinations would be arranged through the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Medical Research Council.

9. Arrangements for other Bacteriological or Pathological Examinations.

Satisfactory arrangements are in existence for such examinations to be carried out at either of the undermentioned laboratories :—

- (a) The Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln.
(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.)
- (b) The Holland County Public Health Laboratory, Boston.
(Provided by the Holland County Council.)

10. Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Disease among Merchant Seamen under International arrangements, including In-patient Treatment ; also as to the steps taken to make these facilities known to Seamen.

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are administered by the Public Health Department of the Holland County Council.

Out-patient Treatment is available at The Clinic, County Emergency Hospital, London Road, Boston, which is within convenient reach of the Port. The fixed times of the Clinic are as follows :—

Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Wednesdays 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

In addition to these times, arrangements are made from time to time for special appointments for seamen unable to attend the fixed clinics.

In-patient Treatment can be arranged if necessary, such cases being dealt with in the Scarthoe Road Institution, Grimsby.

In order to acquaint seamen with all details of facilities available to them, suitable posters are displayed in various parts of the Dock premises. The information is also brought to the notice of masters of vessels in the course of inspections.

11. Arrangements for the Interment of Dead.

Satisfactory arrangements can be made for the interment of dead, at the Boston Corporation Cemetery.

12. Other Matters, if any, requiring or receiving Attention.

There are no items to report under this heading.

Table C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease.	No. of Cases during the Year 1946.		No. of Vessels concerned.	Average No. of cases for previous 5 years.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Scabies.	Nil	6	1	Nil

Table D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the Voyage, but disposed of prior to Arrival.

Disease.	No. of Cases during the Year 1946.		No. of Vessels concerned.	Average No. of cases for previous 5 years.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Nil	Nil	Nil.	Nil	Nil

No cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox or Typhus occurred during the year 1946, and no plague-infected rats were discovered ; neither did any outbreak of Malaria occur on an arriving ship.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS :

1. Steps taken for Detection of Rodent Plague.

(a) In Ships in Port.

Particular attention is paid to this matter by the Port Sanitary Officer in the course of his inspection of ships.

(b) On Quays, Wharves, Warehouses, &c., in the vicinity of the Port.

The Boston Port Health Authority is responsible for the administration of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act within the area. All premises are subject to frequent inspection by the Port Sanitary Officer.

2. Measures taken to prevent the Passage of Rats between Ships and the Shore.

Masters of ships which are suspected of being rat-infested are instructed to provide " mushrooms " on their ropes and to take all precautions possible to prevent passage of rats from ship to shore.

3. Methods of De-ratisation of :

(a) Ships—

Sulphur fumigation is carried out where necessary.

(b) Premises in the Vicinity of Docks or Quays—

Under the general direction of the Port Sanitary Officer, all such premises are kept under constant surveillance by the Authority's Rodent Officer. Pre-baiting, poisoning, gassing, etc., are carried out as and when necessary.

4. Measures taken for the Detection of Rat Prevalence in Ships and on Shore.

(a) The Port Sanitary Officer carries out examination of ships, also of the Dock area.

(b) The Authority's Rodent Officer carries out frequent routine surveys of the Dock area.

5. Rat-proofing.

(a) To what extent are Docks, Wharves and Warehouses, &c., Rat Proof.

The Fruit Shed (South side) is of iron construction with a concrete floor, whilst the general merchandise warehouses on the north side of the dock are of concrete.

(b) Action taken to extend Rat-proofing.

i. In Ships : Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

ii. On Shore : The existing buildings are of satisfactory construction and are maintained in a rat-proof condition.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR 1946.

Table E.

(1) On Vessels.

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year.
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Brown	—	3	—	1	4	—	—	3	2	—	4	—	17
Species not recorded ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Examined	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Infected with Plague ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

Table F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year.
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Brown	—	—	22	—	—	27	—	—	54	—	—	8	111
Species not recorded ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Examined	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Infected with Plague ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

Table G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague “ infected ” or “ suspected ” Vessels, or Vessels from Plague infected Ports arriving in the Port during the Year.

Total Number of such Vessels arriving (1)	Nil
Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO ₂ (2)	Nil
Number of Rats killed (3)	Nil
Number of such Vessels fumigated by HCN (4)	Nil
Number of Rats killed (5)	Nil
Number of such Vessels on which trapping, poisoning, &c., were employed. (6)	Nil
Number of Rats killed (7)	Nil
Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat destruc- tion were not carried out. (8)	Nil

Table H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

This Table is not applicable to the Port of Boston, which is not one of the Ports approved by the Minister of Health for the issue of Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates.

Such Certificates, when needed, are obtained from Grimsby.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREW'S SPACES.

Table J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during the Year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	41	Nil	2	5
Other Nations	64	Nil	Nil	7

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

1. Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940 :—

No occasion for any action under the above Regulations arose during the year 1946.

2. Shell-fish.

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the Area of the Port Health Authority, in the Wash. These are periodically inspected, and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

No action was necessary during the year 1946, either under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

3. Number of Samples of Food examined by :

- (a) Bacteriologist Nil.
 (b) Analyst Nil.

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